SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 11

Thursday, June 5, 2014
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CROWDFUNDING IS SOOOOO IN RIGHT NOW

FASHION DESIGNERS TURNING TO THE CROWD TO BOOST THEIR BRAND'S BOTTOM LINE PAGE 12

Woman killed in two-vehicle collision

Victim of Oxford Street crash was revived by first responders but succumbed to her injuries in hospital PAGE 3

'Historic' or dangerous day for sex trade workers?

Advocates, academics disagree over proposed prostitution laws PAGE 4

Don't hold your breath for pot prescriptions

Officials applying pressure on doctors not to prescribe medical marijuana, a drug they know little about PAGE 7

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Wanted: River of ideas

Design contest.
Londoners encouraged to reconnect with Thames River

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Look to the Thames, the London Community Foundation is saying as it looks toward an inspirational project.

It's called Back to the River and, if it goes ahead as planned, it will be a $500,000 international design competition to help recreate the riverfront and reconnect citizens with the important watercourse. The foundation, which is dedicated to improving communities in London and Middlesex County, is to present its concept at city hall on Monday.

But Coun. Joe Swan, chair of the investment and economic prosperity committee, which will hear the pitch, questioned the need for it Wednesday, saying there are already 10 plans to redevelop riverside areas and this would be the 11th.

Meanwhile, the foundation's president and chief executive officer said, "The sky's the limit."

Martha Powell added: "We really wanted to have a project that is going to be visible and have the community take pride in something that is core to us."

Professionals worldwide, from architects to planners, would be asked to submit designs for improving the river.

The idea's split into two "tiers."

The first, covering Oxford Street to Adelaide Street, seeks to identify 20 years of development opportunities, "like a string of pearls along the river," according to the community foundation's presentation.

The other wants "a detailed development strategy with specific initiatives over five to 10 years" for the section of river between Wellington Street and Adelaide. Ideas could include public art, public space and attractions like cafés, Powell said.

But, to get the project going, the community foundation needs partners. It's putting forward $250,000 of its own money towards the costs and, on Monday, will ask councillors to endorse a request for $50,000 from the city. The rest of the money will come from public organizations and private donors, Powell said.

If all goes well, the prize fund will total $400,000, with the rest of the money used for project management and evaluation. But Swan will take some convincing.

"If we're going to spend half a million dollars, we should do something," he said. "We should build something. We should plan to do something."

He said the 10 existing plans include the downtown masterplan, Kilmer Brownfield's redevelopment of the London Hydro lands and the project focused on the former hospital site in SoHo.

Reconnecting to the Thames River, be it through recreation or exploring public art, is the aim behind a new effort being pitched by the London Community Foundation. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

NEWS 1

A win for trans rights: Advocate

Trails End. Market told business to leave because of transgender worker

MIKE DONACHIE
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A London market's treatment of a transgender worker and the business that employed her was discrimination, a tribunal has ruled.

The decision against the Trails End market by the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal has been hailed by a London campaigner as a victory for trans people and their rights.

Michelle Boyce, who represented the applicants during the hearing, said it sends a message to businesses and vindicates the decision to take the issue to the tribunal.

"That was the reason for putting forward the case: the public interest," she said.

"To let Trails End know, and any other business, that they have to treat trans people with respect and dignity."

The conflict began in September 2011, when the management of Trails End told Karen Clarke, the owner of True 2 You, a candle and incense business in the market, to fire transgender employee Danielle Freeman. If she didn't, her business wouldn't be welcome at the east London market, Clarke was told.

Clarke did take her business out of Trails End, and she and Freeman took the case to the tribunal.

Now it's ruled in their favour, with Clarke receiving $20,000 and Freeman awarded $10,000 for injury to their dignity, feelings and self-respect.

Also, the market's staff have been told to take human rights training. Trans staff must be allowed to use the washroom they want.

Which washroom the staff would use was one of the biggest concerns for the market owner when he talked to Metro in 2011. At the time, he said he had received multiple complaints about "men dressed as women" at True 2 You.

Boyce said Clarke hasn't been compensated for financial losses because the tribunal wasn't given detailed information about the business, so it is disappointing for Clarke.

But the dignity awards are significant, Boyce added.

"I'm really happy with the decision," she said.

Quoted

"You have to honour and respect their human rights."

Transgender rights advocate Michelle Boyce on the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal's decision

Big Viking conquers Venture London awards

There was yet more success for Big Viking Games on Wednesday night as the winners of the Venture London awards were announced at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn. The games company took the award — and $28,000 prize — in the existing business category, with Georgette Packaging, which offers attractive packaging solutions to small businesses, winning the startup award, which came with $22,000. Pictured are Big Viking Games co-founder Greg Thomson and Sarah Landstreet, owner of the packaging company. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Saunders. Students step up to raise money for Balkans flood victims

Students and staff at Saunders Secondary School are trying to raise $2,000 to buy a water-purification unit to help victims of flooding in the Balkans.

The effort is organized in conjunction with the Toronto-based foundation GlobalMedic. The purification unit would help provide drinking water for 1,000 people. First Nations students organized a lacrosse game on Monday with proceeds going to the effort. Students parking in the Saunders lot were asked to make donations on Wednesday.

There will be a school-wide barbecue on Thursday, led by the Muslim Student Association.

Vice-principal Tiffany Birtch said families of the school's student body "circle the globe, so it is no surprise that the tragic flooding in the Balkans has hit the core of Saunders." For details about donating, contact the school at 519-452-2770. METRO

Food bank calls on Londoners for donations

The latest request for help from the London Food Bank was sent out Wednesday at the launch of the London Cares Curb Hunger Food Drive.

It's now in its 18th year, and the total gathered comes to 1,133,210 pounds of non-perishable donations over the years.

But need continues to grow, said Jane Roy, co-executive director of the London Food Bank. Over the past five years, she said, the need for food donations has grown almost 44 per cent.

"Every pound of food is more important than ever," said Roy. "In 2013, we had more than 3,600 families per month on average visiting the food bank — that translates to more than 43,000 visits during the year."

All food collected is donated to the London Food Bank, which helps people get through difficult periods of their lives.

"This amazing community initiative clearly illustrates how Londoners help Londoners," said Mayor Joe Fontana. METRO

Three ways to donate

Non-perishable food items can be donated at neighbourhood grocery stores.

- All Tim Hortons are also accepting donations.
- Donations can also be placed in a bag tied with a ribbon and set out beside blue boxes on the morning of recycling day.

No compromise. Wynne rules out alliance, swears to re-introduce budget

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she would not try to strike a deal to hang on to power if either of the other parties win the most seats in the June 12 election but fall short of a majority.

Wynne previously refused to rule out teaming up with the New Democrats to block the Progressive Conservatives from forming government if they should win the most seats but not a plurality.

But at a Wednesday campaign stop, the Liberal leader closed the door on speculation. Whichever party wins the most seats deserves to form government, she said.

She also promised a re-elected Liberal government would bring back the legislature within 20 days and re-introduce the budget that triggered the vote.

Wynne lashed out at PC Leader Tim Hudak for vowing to resign as premier if he can't keep all his campaign promises, including cutting 100,000 public-sector jobs.

She said Hudak was offering a money-back guarantee but wondered if those who are thrown out of work would get "a jobs-back guarantee."

The election was called after both opposition parties panned the May 1 budget, raising the possibility Ontario quickly could be plunged into another $90-million election if the Liberals form another minority government.

Premier Kathleen Wynne
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Asked if she would table the same spending plan even if it means triggering another election, Wynne dismissed it as a "hypothetical question."

"That will be up to the people who are sitting in the legislature," she said. "But if we are re-elected, we will have been re-elected on the plan that we have brought forward to the people of Ontario, and that's the plan that we'll be ready to implement."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'In it to win it.' Horwath keeps up all-out offensive

Trailing in the polls and looking to gain momentum, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath stepped up attacks on her rivals Wednesday with eight days until the June 12 election.

Horwath portrayed herself as a viable option to Kathleen Wynne's "corrupt" Liberals and Tim Hudak's cost- and tax-cutting Progressive Conservatives, building on a Tuesday night debate performance in which she insisted voters have a better choice than "bad ethics and bad math."

Hudak's "Million Jobs Plan" is built on questionable assumptions and his promise to axe 100,000 public-sector jobs could prove his undoing at the ballot box, Horwath said to cheers from a small breakfast rally Wednesday.

"That might be the one job loss that's guaranteed at the end of this campaign."

Horwath did not mention her plan for a Ministry of Savings and Accountability that would axe $600 million in unspecified spending.

Game time

"People, I think, are tuning in very much now."
NDP Leader Andrea Horwath

Horwath kept up the pressure on the $1.1-billion gas-plant scandal — an issue she and Hudak hammered Wynne with in the debate.

"Last night we saw very clearly that Ms. Wynne, who gets up every morning and tries to run away from her scandals ... couldn't run," Horwath said. "Ms. Wynne could not defend her record. Why? Because it's an indefensible record."

If the June 12 vote results in another minority government, Horwath drew a line in the sand.

"I have no intention of supporting a plan that kills 100,000 jobs in this province, nor do I have any intention of supporting a corrupt Liberal party. New Democrats are in it to win it." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The driver of this vehicle died after a crash early Wednesday morning on Oxford Street W. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Female driver killed in Oxford Street crash

Two-vehicle collision. Victim was found with no vital signs, revived, but died in hospital

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London police are trying to piece together what caused a Wednesday morning accident that left one woman dead.

Police were called to the two-vehicle crash on Oxford Street W. near Sanatorium Road at about 5:15 a.m.

A woman in a Volkswagen Jetta was found without vital signs, but first responders were able to start her heart again, police said. She was rushed to hospital where she succumbed to her injuries a short time later.

London police Const. Ken Steeves said the woman was trapped in her car after the crash.

No information on her identity has been released pending notification of next of kin.

The investigation is ongoing, with Oxford closed between Sanatorium and Kains roads for several hours as police worked the scene. Police have not said if speed or other factors may have played a role.

It's believed a Dodge Ram pickup truck travelling west on Oxford hit the Jetta broadside as it turned right onto the road near St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School.

The driver of the Dodge was treated for minor injuries, police said.

These turtle girls, just cut 'em some slack

It's nesting season for turtles, so it's time to take care.

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority is asking people to look out for the animals, which could be 100 years old, at a vulnerable time of year.

Seven of Ontario's eight turtle species are currently at risk.

"You can help by watching for turtles crossing the road and, when it's safe to do so, helping them across the road," an Authority spokesman said.

"Placing the turtle back in the nearest wetland area is advised (regardless of the direction it was moving).

A blanding's turtle. COURTESY UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

"If you're helping a turtle across the road, use care when you lift the animal, keep it low to the ground in case it falls and ensure your hands and arms are always behind the turtle and away from its head."

People who find a turtle nesting on their property are asked not to disturb it. Eggs could take 50 to 90 days to hatch, and some species stay in the nest until the following spring. METRO

Seen one?

If you see any of the following species, contact Scott Gillingwater, species-at-risk biologist, at gillingwaters@thamesriver.on.ca.

- **Spotted turtle (endangered):** 10-12 cm with a black shell with small yellow spots.
- **Blanding's turtle (threatened):** 18-23 cm with a black high-domed shell and bright yellow throat.
- **Spiny softshell turtle (threatened):** 20-46 cm, with green to brown flat, leathery shell, with a long neck and snorkel-like snout.

Terri-Jean Bedford is the former sex worker who got the ball rolling on changes to Canada's prostitution laws. She battled the federal government for years, taking her fight all the way to the Supreme Court and claiming victory in December when judges ruled them unconstitutional. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

'Historic' day for sex workers, says advocate

Prostitution legislation. Canada's new laws aim to help women leave the streets

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One local women's advocate called Wednesday "historic" after the federal government introduced new prostitution legislation that would punish johns and pimps but not the women themselves.

Instead, funding will be allocated for exit programs designed to help sex workers migrate to a safer life.

The new legislation was necessary thanks to a Supreme Court decision last year that struck down three provisions of the old law.

Very similar to the controversial Nordic model already in place in Sweden, Norway and several other countries, it's hoped the legislation will protect prostitutes' safety and make it easier for them to leave a life on the streets, drugs and pimps behind.

London Abused Women's Centre executive director Megan Walker said she never thought she'd see this day come.

"We need to recognize that this is a really historic day for women," she said. "I think a lot of credit has to go to survivors who've come forward and bravely told their story."

The legislation is "a huge step forward to women's equality," she said. "Honestly, I did not think in my life I would see anything this drastic."

London police Chief Brad Duncan has been a vocal supporter of the Nordic model.

While some women may choose to be prostitutes, many have had the choice taken away from them, he said.

"Women find themselves in this situation, oftentimes, not of their own making," Duncan said. "It's the consumer that drives this.

"It's the johns and the pimps that drive this activity. Without the legislative tools to deal with that aspect of it, we're left in the position where we can't assist those women."

Canada speaks

The new legislation comes just two days after the Justice Department released the results of an online consultation that showed a slim majority of respondents felt buying sex should be illegal.

- However, two-thirds of the more than 31,000 respondents said selling sex should not be an offence.

The flip side

Laws would put sex workers in jeopardy: Western prof

While many praise new prostitution legislation unveiled Wednesday aimed at increasing the safety of sex-trade workers, not everyone is impressed.

Treena Orchard, an assistant professor in Western University's health studies department, believes there's ample evidence to suggest that what's commonly known as the Nordic model — laws that punish johns and pimps but not prostitutes — puts women in greater peril.

"On paper, it's a good idea that might end violence against women," she said.

But it's already being studied in Vancouver, she pointed out, and the results have been far from stellar.

Prospective johns are shying away from areas well populated by prostitutes for fear of being arrested.

Instead, they're meeting in more secluded areas where the threat of violence and unprotected sex is much higher.

"Women are also finding that they have to work a lot more because there are fewer customers," Orchard said.

"Men are afraid. And when you work more and there's competition, the prices go down.

"So women are working way longer, and they're making a lot less money. That makes them more vulnerable."

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Childreach

Fun run coming up on June 21

Childreach's second Colour Fun Run is coming to Graham Family Eco Park (15889 Medway Rd.) on June 21. The 5K run and walk will see people start off with white shirts and be hit with explosions of colour on each loop of the course.

All proceeds will benefit the organization's work with at-risk families in London. METRO

Museum London tours kick off

Museum London experts are offering seven tours in the city. The tours start at the museum and kick off Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon and continue through September.

Here's a look at what's on offer:

• River Walk (June 7, July 19): Explores the founding of London and historic events like the Great Flood.

• Public Art (June 14, July 26): Visits a selection of sculptures throughout downtown.

• From Castles to Cottages (June 21, Aug. 2): Explains the architectural transformation of historical buildings in the downtown as a reflection of growing industry during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

• Unsettling the Thames (June 28, Aug. 9): Focuses on the lives of workers and features stories about early settlement at the Forks of the Thames.

• Monuments and Memorials (July 5, Aug. 16): Runs through downtown and into Victoria Park. The tour features statues and plaques in memory of historical events.

• Murals (July 12, Aug. 23): Highlights murals commissioned inside downtown's public buildings and on the exterior walls of shops and restaurants.

• Forest City Modern (Sept. 27): Explores downtown's modernist architectural gems and the post-war era that made them possible. METRO

Chia products. Health officer warns of salmonella risk in Ontario

Health officials say 15 confirmed cases of salmonellosis have been reported in Ontario linked to the ongoing investigation of sprouted chia products.

Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Arlene King is warning Ontarians not to consume certain sprouted chia products by Advantage Health Matters and Back 2 the Garden because they may be contaminated with salmonella.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced a recall last week that affected certain Organic Traditions and Back 2 the Garden brand products.

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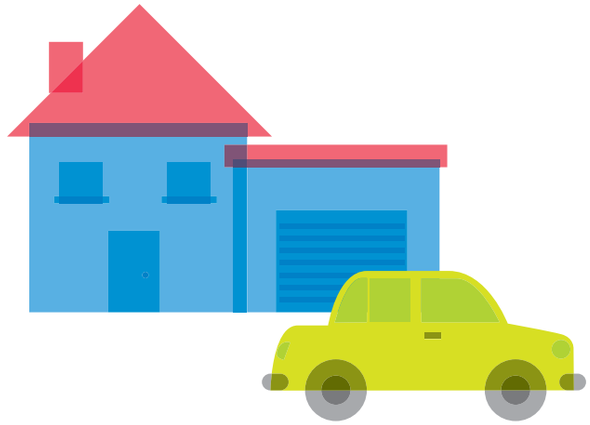

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Harper, Barroso meet in Brussels to discuss stalled free-trade deal

Foreign affairs. PM meets with European Commission in Belgium ahead of G7 summit

Prime Minister Stephen Harper waves as he arrives at the Melsbroek military airport in Belgium Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephen Harper arrived Wednesday in Brussels for the G7 summit — but his first order of business was to kick-start his stalled free-trade deal with the European Union.

The prime minister met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, about an hour prior to the official opening of the G7 summit, where the Ukraine-Russia crisis was set to dominate.

But Harper appeared eager to make progress towards getting a final text of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Harper flew to Brussels to meet Barroso in a high-profile ceremony last October to sign an agreement in principle on the deal.

But the final, lawyer-approved document remains an elusive entity as some of the major irritants that stalled the protracted four-year negotiations reared their heads yet again in recent weeks.

The Harper government insists the delays are simply a matter of hammering out the precise final legal text, and are not a matter of substantive disagreement.

The Prime Minister's Office expressed optimism in a statement after Wednesday night's meeting.

"Leaders were pleased that the process to finalize the text, further to the agreement in principle announced last October, remains on track," said the PMO readout.

A stalled or scuttled deal would be politically damaging to Harper, who views a comprehensive deal with the EU's 28-country bloc to be the jewel in his crown of a series of much smaller trade agreements. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shifting sands

Harper and Barroso struck up a strong personal rapport last fall in the weeks leading up to their October announcement. At the October signing ceremony, Barroso praised Harper as a skilled negotiator.

- However, the political ground is shifting in Europe, and if the final legal text of the deal doesn't come soon, the prime minister could face less trade-friendly characters.

Toronto uses tower power in branded condom rollout

Toronto unwrapped its very own city-branded condom design Wednesday, featuring the phallic point of the CN Tower and three aptly chosen city street signs: Cummer Avenue, Wood Street and Coxwell Avenue.

Toronto Public Health tweeted out the design of "condomTO" in six separate tweets, starting at 9 a.m.

A message on the condom's package reads, "No matter which way you go, put it on!"

The condom, launched by the health agency, comes two weeks before World Pride celebrations kick off in the city on June 20.

Dr. David McKeown, the city's medical officer, says the condom's main goal is to get Torontonians talking about safe sex — and using condoms.

"This is a lighthearted approach to what is a serious subject," he said. "We want to raise awareness and try something new and different to get people thinking about safer sex. We're trying to make it something that people in Toronto will talk about."

About 60 people die from HIV in Toronto annually, he added. Using condoms is an effective way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases but statistics show many people choose not to use them.

The AIDS Committee of Toronto welcomed the move by Toronto Public Health, but pointed out only men's, not women's, condoms were available.

"The message doesn't start and end with condoms in a bowl," said spokesman Rafay Agha.

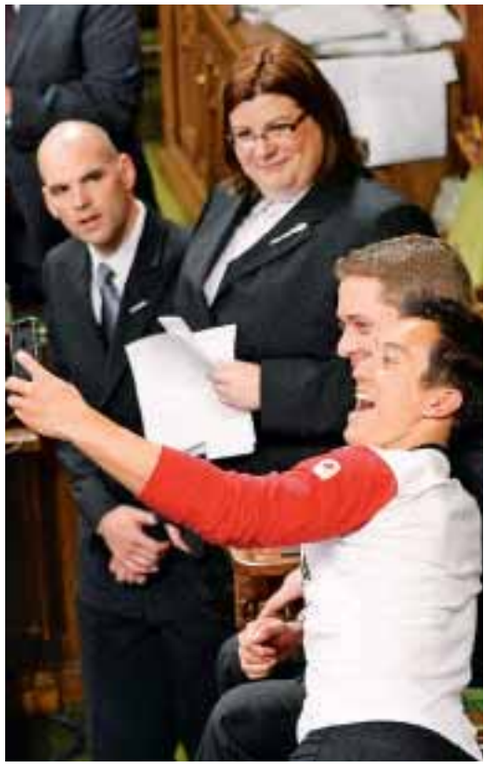
"But kudos to Toronto Public Health. The more safer-sex options people have, the better. It's also a great starting point for a conversation. Our symbol of the city is a phallic building."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

First of its kind

This is the first Canadian city-branded condom that McKeown is aware of.

- Other major cities in North America, including Los Angeles and New York, have their own branded condoms.



Every Chan for him-selfie

Canadian Olympic figure skater Patrick Chan takes a selfie with House Speaker Andrew Scheer as Olympic athletes were honoured in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto

Man faces charges for indecent act with cucumber

A Toronto man is facing charges after police allege he committed an indecent act in a library while holding a cucumber.

Police say officers were called to a library in the city's northeast end on May 31 for what was described as a "suspicious incident."

Fredrick Tennyson Davis, 49, is charged with committing an indecent act and two counts of failing to comply with probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida

After pulling over detective, phoney cop in real trouble

Police say a man impersonating an officer faces charges after signalling a real detective to pull over on a road in Florida.

Authorities say 20-year-old Matthew Michael Lee McMahon activated a red and blue light Monday while driving behind an unmarked sheriff's car.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chill on pot docs

Rx marijuana. One Toronto doc is seeing patients via Skype for pot scripts; they are connected to him via a private firm for $300

TREVOR GREENWAY
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Canadian doctors who prescribe medical marijuana are feeling a chill, as health officials apply pressure on them not to prescribe a drug they know little about.

A doctor in Toronto was willing to go on the record with Metro to talk about the stigma surrounding medical pot and the benefits patients derive from the drug. But when he heard several colleagues are being scrutinized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he backed out.

"Patients' doctors do not want to prescribe and they think that the college has said that you cannot prescribe," said the doctor, who we agreed to keep anonymous. "It's uncomfortable and there is a stigma behind it."

The physician has started seeing patients via Skype — who are connected with him through a private firm for a $300 fee — as more and more patients are finding it tough to find a doctor willing to sign off on a pot prescription. He says telemedicine is sufficient for such consultations and the patients provide him and the firm government-issued identification and their medical records.

Skype scripts?

"Prescribing is a medical act that requires an appropriate evaluation of the patient ... and that can't be done if you do not see the patient."

Dr. Yves Robert, Quebec College of Physicians

He said the problem is the fact there is no scientific data for doctors to reference when considering prescribing pot to patients with multiple sclerosis, cancer and various chronic pain conditions. "Physicians receive no training," he said.

Sandy Daviau spent more than a decade looking for a doctor to prescribe the drug for his multiple sclerosis. He said with the recent changes to Health Canada's medical pot program, which makes doctors the ultimate gatekeepers of the drug.

"It's worse than before," said Daviau, whose initial physician Dr. Rob Kamermans was ordered to close his Coe Hill clinic and was charged with fraud, forgery and money laundering after he signed off on 4,000 pot prescriptions in a year. The College of Physicians of Ontario told Metro the federal pot program changes provide "significant concern," as doctors are expected to prescribe a drug that has no clinical studies.

Manhunt in Moncton after shooting spree

RCMP officers use their vehicle to keep a perimeter in Moncton, N.B., on Wednesday evening. RCMP in New Brunswick would say at press time only that an undisclosed number of people had been shot and a manhunt was underway in the north end of Moncton for a suspect armed with guns. According to unconfirmed reports on social media, several police officers had been shot and police in riot gear were hunting for a man carrying high-powered rifles, a crossbow and a knife. For more on this story, visit metronews.ca.

MARC GRANDMAISON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sweet to sour. Burt of Burt's Bees buzzed back to Maine after love affair with staffer

Conventional wisdom suggests the Burt behind Burt's Bees left the company after he became disillusioned with the corporate world in North Carolina and wanted to return to his solitary life in Maine.

The reality, Burt Shavitz says, is that he was forced out by co-founder Roxanne Quimby after he had an affair with an employee.

So the man on the Burt's Bees logo that promises "Earth-friendly natural personal care products" ended up with 37 acres in Maine, and an undisclosed sum of money.

And he's not complaining.

"In the long run, I got the land, and land is everything. Land is positively everything. And money is nothing really worth squabbling about. This is what puts people six feet under. You know, I don't need it," he told a filmmaker on the property where the company was launched in the 1980s.

The reclusive beekeeper whose simple life became complicated by his status as a corporate icon is now the subject of a documentary, Burt's Buzz, which opens Friday in cities including New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Phoenix and Cleveland.

Burt Shavitz stands on his property in Parkman, Maine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interviewed by The Associated Press on his land in Maine, Shavitz declined to discuss his relationship with Quimby.

"What I have in this situation is no regret," he said, sitting in a rocking chair. "The bottom line is she's got her world and I've got mine, and we let it go at that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app for more photos of the St. Regis hotel's swankiest amenities.

Get white-glove service ... for $21,500 a night

As the gap between the wealthiest travellers and everyone else has widened, high-rollers are looking for ever-more pampering. Luxury hotels are arising even at iconic middle-American tourism spots such as Walt Disney World. Case in point: this Abu Dhabi Suite at the St. Regis in Abu Dhabi. The nearly 24,0000-square-foot two-storey suite, which sells for a nightly rate of $21,500 US, is suspended 720 feet above the ground between the two buildings of the Nation Towers development. It has three bedrooms, a spa, a cinema, a bar area, two kitchens and a 360-degree panoramic view of the city, the islands, and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. The suite has 19 chandeliers made of Bohemian crystal, and an elevator that takes guests to ground level in total privacy, bypassing the rest of the hotel. KAMRAN JEBREILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fraud

America catching up to Canada with card microchips

Sam's Club on Wednesday said it will become the first mass retailer in the U.S. to offer a credit card using a fraud-deterring microchip.

Visa and MasterCard are pushing for the adoption of microchips, which they say have helped reduce fraud in Canada, Mexico and most of Western Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 91.42¢ (-0.24¢)

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GAME OF BLEEDING RAINBOWS & BAD ACCENTS

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Game of Thrones is one of the most intensely loved shows in the history of television, which is interesting for a show that does not love you back.

The sword-and-sorcery-and-rape-and-decapitation fantasy series has its moments of joy and hope, but they're mostly there so they can be snatched away from you, like a child's toy, your shocked face part of the latest YouTube reaction montage.

Author George R.R. Martin wrote the books the series is based on, so he can be blamed for most of the emotional wallop. Then the show producers looked at a book series full of sexual assault, decapitation, castration and people getting slaughtered at weddings and said, "Hey, could be worse. Let's make it worse!"

It all came to a head in the most recent episode as the emotional and physical pain combined perfectly when (spoiler!) a much-loved character had his skull slowly crushed ON SCREEN, destroying hope and brains in equal measure. (Double spoiler!: He died.)

The impact of that scene had me thinking about what Martin could have done with some of television's most famous programs.

If all TV were like Game of Thrones …

* If Martin had written **Seinfeld**, the Master of My Domain episode would have been about who can go the longest without losing their genitals.

* If Martin had written **Reading Rainbow**, the theme song would have been, "Butterfly in the sky/Loses its wings and dies/Dare to look/Within my book/A Bleeding Rainbow (death by crossbow!)"

* If Martin had written **WKRP,** Les Nessman's cuts would have been fatal.

* If Martin had written **The Mary Tyler Moore Show**, Mary would have thrown her hat in the air and been hit by a truck.

* If Martin had written **The Wire**, the mayor of Baltimore would have been a conniving narcissist with unbridled lust for power and women, played by an Irish actor with a deeply unconvincing accent.

* If Martin had written **Friends**, one episode would have been called The One About the Incestuous Rape Over the Barely Warm Corpse of Their Child.

* If Martin had written **The X-Files**, Scully would say there are no such thing as dragons while a dragon was eating her.

* If Martin had written **Freaks and Geeks**, it would be Carrie.

* If Martin had written **The Daily Show with Jon Stewart**, your Moment of Zen would be the anguished screams of the dying.

* If Martin had written **The Larry Sanders Show**, it would be exactly the same. He loves that guy.

As you can see, I'm sort of obsessed. I feel like if the show has gotten us this invested, it must take a happy turn soon, right? I've got a good feeling about next week. And if the good guys don't start winning, I swear, heads will roll.

ZOOM

But is it cat?

Felines: 'The universal mode of communication'

SVETLANA PETROVA
Artist based in St. Petersburg, Russia

After her mother died, artist Svetlana Petrova went into a deep depression. A friend suggested dressing up Zarathustra, the kitty Petrova inherited from her mom, in costumes for a photo session as a pick-me-up. But the cat was so fat that he couldn't fit into anything. Instead, Petrova photoshopped him into works of art. Metro sat down with Petrova to get more details.

Are you a big fan of memes?
I love the concept. If I were to return to university I'd write a thesis on it. But I want to make memes that are pretty. Many memes are just plain ugly.

Why do cats have such appeal? Cats are the universal mode of communication. We may all speak different languages but we're all lovers of cats. They're a way of bringing us together to do good. For example, two years ago there was Hank, a cat that ran for the U.S. senate. For his campaign, I helped design some fake dollar bills with his picture on them. The project raised a lot of money for animal charities in the U.S. and Russia. So we managed to do good, not through people but through a cat. METRO

The Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci gets a ginger fat cat addition. Below: catified versions of Portrait of an Unknown Woman in Russian Costume by Ivan Argunov and Bogatyrs by Viktor Vasnetsov. COURTESY SVETLANA PETROVA

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MetroTube

metro AR

Man goes in search of lost time on a motorbike

REBECCA WILLIAMS
readers@metronews.ca

SCREENGRAB

Every corner of the world is more connected than ever, but what about our connection to the past?

Douglas Gautraud's romanticizing of another time and his ties to his grandfathers left him wanting something outside of living life online. So, much to his mother's chagrin, he bought a motorcycle.

What follows is an endearing story about how two wheels and an engine help a man explore his relationship with his elders, and how it became his "Mom's Motorcycle." (Via Douglas Gautraud/YouTube)

metro

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AlvegoRoot Theatre brings Grey Days Preferable to Fringe

Paul Peel. The play details the life of an internationally known London artist

BACKSTAGE PASS
Mila Petkovic
london@metronews.ca

Grey Days Preferable is the latest play by AlvegoRoot Theatre, founded by local whiz kid Adam Corrigan Holowitz six years ago, when he was just 13.

The play (written and premièred by Jason Rip in 2000) is a vibrant portrait of the internationally acclaimed 19th-century London painter Paul Peel, and his sister, Mildred, now forgotten but once a great artist in her own right.

The production will take place at Good Foundation Theatre as part of this year's London Fringe Festival.

It will be director Corrigan Holowitz's 10th production.

"We create stories based on local history and mythology and see how they can apply to the greater world," says Corrigan Holowitz, who has one more year to go in the acting program at Fanshawe College.

One of Canada's first artistic exports, Peel studied art in Paris and exhibited at international shows like the Paris Salon, where he won a bronze medal in 1890 for his painting After the Bath.

His style was quite conservative and realistic, although highly praised in academic circles, in a period where more experimental artists like Monet, Cézanne and Picasso were the cutting edge of the art scene.

"He died at age 32 when he was just coming into his own. In a way it's tragic because we don't see what he could have become," says the director.

Each scene in the play is inspired by a painting and depicted by two actors.

"For A Venetian Bather, there's a picture frame at the centre of the stage with a drop cloth thrown over, and the actress behind the scene takes on the poise, but it's only a silhouette," says Corrigan Holowitz. "Peel has just discovered painting with mirrors and it's a very joyful scene."

The paintings are important reference points, but, ultimately, the play is an exploration of artistic aspiration and family duty.

"One of the tragic moments was that at the height of his career, he was convinced by his father to auction off all his paintings in Toronto for a very small sum that did not reflect their value. It's a blow artistically and personally," says Corrigan Holowitz.

Peel's legacy remains impressed on the London and Canadian psyche, says the director.

"He showed the world that Canadians *did* have culture, even as a young country."

The play takes place at the Good Foundation Theatre (137 Dundas St., in the new Fanshawe Centre for Digital and Performance Arts) from Thursday to June 13.

Tickets are $10 at the door or can be bought online at londonfringe.ca.

Chris McAuley as Paul Peel in rehearsal for Grey Days Preferable. CONTRIBUTED

Not to be missed

AlvegoRoot director Adam Corrigan Holowitz's top picks for the Fringe Festival include:

- Jayson McDonald's new solo play World War Three.
- Jeff Culbert's play Choose, But Choose Wisely (a war of 1812 saga about picking allegiances).
- Theatre Soup's comedy Ladies Room about three women's misadventures through washroom conversations.
- Just for Laughs' 2012 best comedy nominee God is a Scottish Drag Queen by Mike Delamont.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

In post-breakup, Mayer becomes muse to Katy Perry

At this point, we'll soon be able to put out a compilation album of songs written about John Mayer. His most recent ex, Katy Perry, tells Cosmopolitan that fans shouldn't be surprised to hear some tunes on forthcoming albums inspired by their breakup. "There's no bad blood, but I'm sure there will be inspired songs," she tells the magazine.

Taylor Swift, another of Mayer's exes, also penned a tune or two about the singer.

Mayer, for his part, isn't too worried about the output. "I have super-strength for gangups," he tells TMZ. "I'm fine. That's what you're supposed to do, man. You're supposed to write songs. You're just not supposed to tell everybody you're doing it."

Nick Loeb's pals couldn't be happier about split from Sofia Vergara

Last month, Sofia Vergara announced the end of her two-year engagement to Nick Loeb, and apparently his friends are thrilled by the news, according to Page Six. "I'm happy to see her go. Good riddance," one of businessman Loeb's pals said, shooting down claims that Loeb was using the relationship to ride Vergara's coattails.

Sofia Vergara

According to the friend, the Modern Family actress was "rude" during group dinners, ignoring others and constantly checking her phone and Twitter account. "She only joins the conversation if it's about her."

The Word

50 blames his terrible pitching on too much hand practice

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York City

50 Cent is sure living life to the fullest this summer. First he throws the worst first pitch ever at a Mets game. Then he has a rival robbed onstage. Now he says he masturbated so much he hurt his bones.

No, not that bone.

Fiddy is blaming that dismal first pitch on a sort of repetitive stress injury. In his Reddit AMA Tuesday, he said, "I have a skeletal muscle injury from excessive masturbation so take it easy lol."

Will do! Then again, most of us do not have to pitch at Major League baseball games, so we are free to abuse ourselves as extravagantly as we choose, no matter how fraught with peril our technique may be.

In that same AMA, 50 Cent also said he used to bench press 405 pounds, so perhaps the injury had other causes. He also showed his nerdy side: When asked what would be his dream movie role, he replied, "One of the Marvel franchise. Or Star Wars."

Just be careful how many times you swing the light sabre.

Kourtney Kardashian

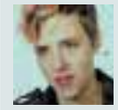
Kourtney Kardashian is expecting, many selfies to follow

The Kardashian-Jenner family may still be on a high from Kim's wedding, but now they have another reason to celebrate. Kourtney and boyfriend Scott Disick are reportedly expecting their third child. Us Weekly is reporting that she is a few months along, and you can count on the mag — as well as other tabloids — to document her ever-growing bump throughout the coming months.

So far, the couple and the Kardashian clan haven't officially announced the pregnancy in the press or on social media. But you know this family can't keep quiet for long.

Kardashian and Disick have two children together already.

Twitter



@samantharonson
The guy down the street listens to talk radio with this front door open, like it's his job to scare the kids in the neighbourhood.

@SethMacFarlane
We are so lucky that the great escape artists like Harry Houdini aren't also serial killers who can't be locked up.

@ChloeGMoretz
up till 2 writing school essay before my press day tomorrow

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Net those customers.
Fashion designers are turning to crowdfunding to boost brand buzz, profile and bottom line

Sunny Fong recently reached out to online donors to expand his VAWK label. In a video on his Indiegogo fundraising page, Fong appealed for help to stage his World MasterCard Fashion Week runway show in Toronto in March as well as aid to launch his label's first online store. KEITH BEATY / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dylan Uscher works mainly with independent boutiques to feature his creations, but the designer hopes that crowdfunding will help elevate his label from budding brand to booming success.

The self-taught American designer recently moved back to Boston after eight years in Toronto where he launched Dylanium Knits in 2010.

Uscher has partnered with Luevo — a Canadian crowdfunding platform for designers — to help pre-sell his fall collection of knitwear inspired by Florentine architecture. His online campaign ends June 15.

"It's always a struggle when you're an independent business owner because you have to work really hard to get the very little that you have," Uscher said. "This just seemed like a really great outlet to try and get some new sales."

All items in his collection featured on Luevo are 15 per cent less than the suggested retail price.

And Uscher will only produce them if the products reach designated targets among customers who've pledged to purchase the designs, which include scarves, a slouch hat and cape.

"Instead of using hypothetical market research or numbers that someone else has designed, you can put your own products out there and really test ... what products are going to work and what colours work and what doesn't," Uscher said.

"I think that's the really interesting way to approach it without having to go through all of the process of producing the items yourself and hoping that they sell."

Luevo co-founder Ana Caracaleanu said the site launched with its first designers in March and plans to keep the number of labels featured in their "curated marketplace" to under 10 for now, with campaigns of 30 to 45 days.

Luevo takes a 15 per cent commission from successfully funded projects but also works to support designers in other ways such as editing news releases and producing written content, she added.

"For the designers, the value that we bring is our technology to crowdsource items that are not yet produced. They don't have to pull the inventory," Caracaleanu said. "They could use us as a step in growing their businesses or scaling up, and then taking their productions to a larger site where they may be requested to have ... the inventory to put their items there."

Christopher Charlesworth is co-founder of HiveWire, a crowdfunding and crowdsourcing solutions provider. He isn't surprised to see designers pursuing crowdfunding as capital- and buzz-building strategy.

"We think there's a really unique opportunity for not only startup entrepreneurs but specifically for fashion designers because they can present truly unique wares that are literally unavailable quite often in any other place.

"For many startup designers, they don't have access to the traditional distribution channels. Crowdfunding allows them to connect directly with a unique audience that is potentially interested in their goods."

The platform also offers the opportunity to take risks with designs they might not be able to produce when dealing with a mainstream chain, Charlesworth noted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THIS EXTER SLOUCH HAT IN SILVER FROM DYLANIUM KNITS RETAILS FOR $105 BUT IS CURRENTLY SELLING ON LUEVO FOR $89.

The pros and cons of the crowdsourcing concept

Darren Meister, an associate professor of business at Western University in London, Ont., said he thinks a bigger risk from a fashion perspective is the ability to see the designs — and potential interest from consumers — posted online for all to see. That includes major retailers who may jump on creating their own versions.

- Yet Meister said he also sees the possibility of rewards for emerging designers using the platform to make their mark, and some sales in the process.
- What the crowdfunding model allows you is to try a more things, get more immediate feedback and improve your designs, he said. "If I'm a designer and I put up 20 designs and I see these three are the ones that are catching on, I'm probably going to focus on those three."

E-xclusivity

"We think there's a really unique opportunity for not only startup entrepreneurs but specifically for fashion designers because they can present truly unique wares that are literally unavailable quite often in any other place."

Christopher Charlesworth
Co-founder of HiveWire, a crowdfunding and crowdsourcing solutions provider

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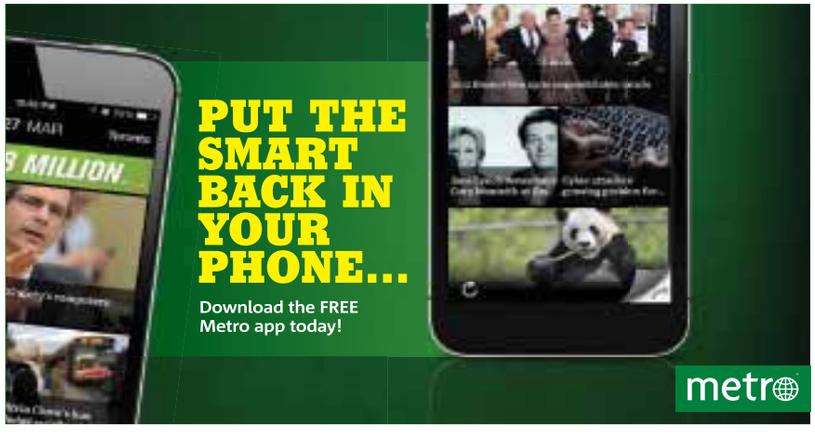

Cookbook of the Week

The B.C. coast comes to your home

Sophisticated Bohemian (Sobo) has gone from food truck to destination restaurant in Tofino, B.C. to a cookbook. Lisa Ahier (the restaurant's chef and owner) has teamed up with Andrew Morrison (a food writer) for a release that focuses on locally sourced, seasonally inspired ingredients — just like the restaurant that inspired it. Among the 100 recipes included are: Crab and Goat Cheese Wontons, BBQ Bison Flank Streak, Thai Chicken in Roti, Mascarpone Cheesecake and more. METRO

The best of the west: Killer Fish Tacos

Lunch or dinner. Nothing screams summer more than fresh fruit, and this recipe takes nature's and mixes it with crispy fish

"I've always adjusted this recipe according to what fish is readily available. In New York, I used snapper, and in Texas, I used bass," writes Lisa Ahier in her book The Sobo Cookbook.

"Here in B.C., salmon and halibut have become my all-time favourites. This recipe was featured in The Best American Recipes 2000, edited by Fran McCullough and Suzanne Hamlin, and in The Gourmet Cookbook, edited by Ruth Reichl."

1. Prepare the fresh fruit salsa.

2. Cut the salmon and halibut into 1-inch cubes and season with salt.

3. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and sauté for 1 minute. Add the fish and fry for about 3 minutes, until just cooked Add the chipotle chilies and sauté for 2 or 3 more minutes. Remove from the heat.

4. Fill the taco shells halfway with the fish mixture, then top with the salsa. Serve immediately, two tacos per person.

Fresh Fruit Salsa

This salsa should reflect the season, so don't be a slave to the recipe. I mix it up all the time, combining fruits like peaches and blueberries with watermelon, or pineapple with avocado. Buy what's fresh.

1. Combine all ingredients and refrigerate until ready to use. This salsa will stand up for about 24 hours, after which time the fruit begins to break down.

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Ingredients

- Fresh Fruit Salsa (see below)
- 1 lb wild salmon, boneless and skinless
- 1 lb halibut, bonelesss and skinless
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup small-diced red onion (about 1 onion)
- 1/2 cup puréed canned chipotle chilies in adobo sauce
- 16 crispy hard taco shells

Fresh Fruit Salsa

- 4 kiwi fruits, diced small
- 1/2 pineapple, diced
- 1 mango, diced small
- 1 small papaya, diced small
- 2 avocados, diced small
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

This recipe serves eight. JEREMY KORESKI

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With thousands of wine recommendations, meal pairings, and gift suggestions matched by occasion, Hello Vino is a beautifully organized app that can remember your wines and scan bottle labels, too.

Condiment. Habanero Whisky BBQ Sauce

1. Heat the oil in a medium-sized, heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Sauté the onion, jalapeno and bell peppers for 20 minutes or until tender, gently stirring with a wooden spoon to prevent burning. Add the garlic, dry mustard, salt and cumin and cook for an additional 2 minutes.

2. Add the whisky and let it evaporate for 1 minute. Add the ketchup, cider vinegar, Dijon, brown sugar, molasses and chili powder and simmer on low heat for 1 hour, stirring frequently to avoid burning.

3. Remove from heat and allow to cool to room temperature.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced small
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced small
- 1 red bell pepper, diced small
- 1 green bell pepper, diced small
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp dry mustard
- 1 1/2 tbsp salt (or to taste)
- 1 tbsp ground cumin
- 1/4 cup whisky or bourbon
- 4 cups ketchup
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 3/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 tsp ground dried habanero chili powder

This recipe makes eight cups. JEREMY KORESKI

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Are you looking for more ways to contribute positively to the environment in your everyday life? Shop second-hand.

The clothing you wear and give away can make a big impact on the environment. On average, each North American throws away more than 30 kilograms (68 pounds) of clothing and textiles each year.

The good news is that nearly 100 per cent of that is reusable or recyclable. So this season while you are combing through your closet, packing away your sweaters and getting out those shorts and T-shirts, make your spring extra green by donating your clothes and household items at Value Village.

"Donating the clothes you don't need anymore is a simple, easy way for anyone to go green in their everyday lives," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "It might seem like a small contribution, but over time one person can make a really big difference."

Value Village is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world, keeping more than 294,000 metric tonnes (approximately 650 million pounds — that's the size of two cruise ships) of quality goods from landfills by selling reusable items in-store and responsibly recycling items unsuitable for resale.

CONTRIBUTED

Last year, Value Village repurposed 329 million tops, 59 million pairs of shoes, 114 million pairs of pants and 28 million coats.

Of course, second-hand shoppers are just as important as donors. Visiting your local thrift store is a great way to find good quality, one-of-a-kind items for excellent prices. Shoppers can look good and go green at the same time.

"Value Village works with community partners like Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Canadian Diabetes Association to keep goods out of landfills and give pre-loved clothing a brand new life," Shumpert says. "You never know what treasures you'll find — thrift shopping makes recycling fun."

For more, visit valuevillage.com.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Make room for your fresh new finds by cleaning out the old clothes you don't wear anymore. Value Village pays local non-profits every time you donate, helping to support their programs and services within the community.

"Our goal at Value Village is to support our communities across Canada," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "We consider community investment an essential component of our business."

Over the past 10 years, Value Village has purchased more than $1.5 billion of goods from its partners, turning otherwise unused items into sustainable funding that supports the non-profit's vital community programs and services.

Helping out the community — now that's truly stylish.

Dig through fashion gold mines

Unique style is a coveted quality. This is true now more than ever thanks to street style blogs like the Sartorialist, Street Peeper, Face Hunter, and many others.

"Second-hand shopping has become the fashionista's secret weapon," says Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "You never know what you're going to find there, and sometimes it's a gold mine."

Here's how to find your style at Value Village:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LOOK FOR HIGH-QUALITY MATERIALS

The fabrics you choose will make a difference in the longevity of your garments. Keep your eyes open for high-quality textiles like silk or wool. These materials wear well, last a long time and never go out of style. Value Village purposely selects high-quality clothing, and puts more than 5,000 to 10,000 new items out every day.

CHECK THE LABEL

Chanel, Nike, Lululemon, Aritzia brands such as Wilfred and TNA — high-quality brand names are frequent finds at Value Village. As you are sifting through the racks, watch the labels. You will find items for $10 that would have originally retailed for hundreds.

TRY IT ON

At Value Village, clothing is arranged by size so you can easily find the best fit for you, but since every item is different, make sure to try it on to find out how it fits.

KNOW WHEN TO SAY NO

Sometimes a clothing item just isn't for you. If it's not quite right, don't buy it. Or if you bought it and you are having second thoughts, bring it back. Value Village welcomes buyers to exchange their purchases within seven days so you can save your pocket money for items that feel just right.

CONSIDER GETTING IT TAILORED

If you find a $5 jacket in just the right shade of blue, but it doesn't quite fit, consider getting it altered at a tailor. It will still cost far less than it would new, and you will have a great piece that will last you for years.

Value Village ECO-STATS

facebook.com/ValueVillage @saversvvillage pinterest.com/saversvvillage

Value Village is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world and diverts more than 650 million pounds of quality goods from landfills each year.

The EPA estimates that the average person throws away up to

70 POUNDS OF CLOTHING PER YEAR.

(SMART Association)

Almost **100%** of clothing and textiles are recyclable.

However, **85%** of clothing and textile waste goes to landfills. *(World Wear Project)*

Last year alone, **Value Village** repurposed:

329 MILLION TOPS

114 MILLION PAIRS OF PANTS

59 MILLION PAIRS OF SHOES

28 MILLION COATS

That's enough merchandise to supply the average woman's lifetime wardrobe almost **145,000 times over.**

Value Village gives a second life to more than 1.8 million pounds of reusable items every day, totaling

600 MIDSIZE CARS

Value Village Good deeds. Great deals.
www.valuevillage.com

All decked out for summer

AFTER: Following a quick weekend of painting and laying some new flooring, the old tired patio was ready for summer. The Dimplex Outdoor Fireplace (now discontinued) was purchased at a yard sale and creates a much-needed focal point while offering the look of an outdoor fire when entertaining at night. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sunny makeover. A DIY weekend transformed a tired deck into a bright, summertime retreat

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

BEFORE: This deck was in serious need of some TLS (tender loving style).

The 40-year-old deck at the back of my house was in desperate need of some freshening up. Structurally it was sound, but the sun-bleached wood was in desperate need of some style inspiration. My inspiration came from sun-filled Miami, where the outdoor spaces are white, bright and accessorized with a pop of colour.

With the help of two friends I transformed an unused space into an outdoor entertaining area that works both day and night.

Here's some inspiration, and the products, that helped me get the look.

Paint the wood white

A solid wood stain (similar to a paint) was applied not only to brighten the outdoor space but also to protect the wood from drying out further. I chose a cool, off-white putty colour to help calm the eye on a bright day. Pure white can sometimes be too glaring and often looks cheap. TimberCare Solid Colour Wood Stain, Cement Gray, $55, Para.com

Cushion a blue streak

For a cool-to-touch Miami feeling, I kept all the furnishings light in tone and accessorized with hits of blue and green. Zuo Modern Maclear Outdoor Sofa, $1,450, Lowes.ca

A real shady deal

No trees by my deck means the need for shade when entertaining. One day, a retractable awning (a dream) will get installed. Until then, a super-chic, free-standing umbrella will keep things cool. Karlso Umbrella, $90, IKEA.ca

It's easy being green

I'm not much of a gardener, so the simplest way to get a shot of green on the deck was to use artificial grass. Delivered as a roll, it lays flat on the existing deck, can be vacuumed, cleaned with a garden hose, is fade-resistant and stays cool on the sunniest of days. UZ-ITE Green Grass Shag Carpet, $19/yard HomeDepot.ca

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4 SPORTS

CFL

Simon closes book on historic career

The most prolific receiver in CFL history is calling it a career.

Slotback Geroy Simon announced his retirement Wednesday after 15 seasons.

The 38-year-old native of Johnstown, Pa., played 12 years with the B.C. Lions but finished his career with Saskatchewan, helping the Roughriders win the Grey Cup last year.

Simon spent his first two CFL seasons with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and retires as the league's all-time leader in catches (1,029) and yards (16,352).

Simon was named the league's outstanding player in 2006 after registering 105 catches for 1,856 yards and 15 TDs with B.C., finishing that season with the first of three career Grey Cup title wins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moore-Bertuzzi case

Ex-Canucks owner can be subpoenaed to testify in lawsuit

A U.S. federal judge has ruled a subpoena can be issued compelling the former owner of the Vancouver Canucks to testify in a lawsuit arising from Todd Bertuzzi's career-ending attack on Steve Moore.

Moore's lawyer, Tim Danson, argued a jury should be able to hear John McCaw Jr. answer whether he knew Canucks players were gunning for Moore.

Moore is suing Bertuzzi and the Canucks for $38 million for a 2004 on-ice hit that left Moore with a concussion and three fractured vertebrae. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seitzer has Jays' hit parade crushing foes

MLB. Toronto among league leaders in key offensive statistics under new hitting coach

Blue Jays hitting coach Kevin Seitzer goes over some notes with Jose Bautista during a game against the Orioles on April 24 at Rogers Centre. Under the tutelage of Seitzer, the Jays offence is among the best in the league.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Blue Jays hitting coach Kevin Seitzer usually stands right behind the cage during batting practice while the players take their cuts.

From time to time, he'll move over to the side and will weigh in with a quick tip or two.

It's a comfortable approach that has paid dividends for the American League East division leaders, who boast an offence that is among the best in Major League Baseball.

"I think he's hands-on when he needs to (be), and he sits back and he watches when he needs to," said Blue Jays catcher Erik Kratz. "We have a lot of good hitters here and with good hitters comes success and some streakiness.

"He does a good job of limiting the bad streaks and extending the good streaks."

The team's offensive statistics over the first two months of the campaign have been eye-opening.

Entering Wednesday's games, the Blue Jays led the major leagues in home runs (83) and were second in runs scored (296), RBIs (281), slugging percentage (.451), hits (534) and OPS (on-base plus slugging — .784). Toronto was also tied for second in on-base percentage (.333) and sat fifth in team batting average (.264).

Seitzer keeps a close eye on all the numbers but values some statistical categories more than others.

"Runs scored is the one I'm most concerned about," he said. "If you're scoring runs, whether you do it by home runs, situational hitting, you've got to be able to get on base, draw walks, be able to move runners and get big hits when guys are in scoring position.

"It kind of encompasses everything, really."

The 52-year-old native of Springfield, Ill., was hired by the Blue Jays last fall after spending parts of five seasons as a hitting coach with the Arizona Diamondbacks and Kansas City Royals. He succeeded Chad Mottola, who spent one year in the position.

Seitzer, a two-time all-star as a player, had a .295 career average over 12 seasons with the Royals, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics and Cleveland Indians.

As a coach, he has preached the importance of preparation and making hard, consistent contact in the box.

"Have an idea of what the pitcher has got and what he's going to try to do, and then what each guy needs to do in order to have the best chance to succeed," he said of his approach. "I like to keep things simple. I don't like it complicated, they don't want it complicated.

"They've made really good adjustments so far." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Putting runs on the board

Three Toronto players are in the top 15 in the major leagues in runs scored: Jose Bautista (44 — tied for fourth), Edwin Encarnacion (41 — tied for seventh) and Melky Cabrera (37 — tied for 14th).

Sterling agrees to sell Clippers: Attorney

Shelly Sterling and Donald Sterling are one step closer to being the former owners of the Clippers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling agreed Wednesday to sign off on selling the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for what would be a record $2 billion, according to his attorney.

Sterling "has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences," and as co-owner has given his consent to a deal that was negotiated by his wife, Shelly Sterling, to sell the team, said attorney Maxwell Blecher.

Representatives for Shelly Sterling declined to comment. The NBA also declined to comment on Wednesday afternoon.

Donald Sterling filed a $1-billion suit against the NBA in federal court last week alleging the league violated his constitutional rights by relying on information from an "illegal" recording that publicized racist remarks he made to a girlfriend. It also says the league committed a breach of contract by fining Sterling $2.5 million and that it violated antitrust laws by trying to force a sale.

Blecher said the suit will be dismissed. If the NBA owners approve the sale, it will be a record-high sum for a team that cost Donald Sterling about $12 million in 1981. Blecher's co-counsel, Bobby Samini, said the vote by league owners is expected to take place in mid-July. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Best bid

Steve Ballmer beat out bids by Guggenheim Partners and a group including former NBA all-star Grant Hill.

Bettman says some NHL teams worth at least $2B

A pair of fans walk into the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Wednesday night for Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final between the Kings and New York Rangers. MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Commissioner says 'plenty' franchises would match price tag of NBA's Clippers

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman says if the Los Angeles Clippers sell for $2 billion US, he has franchises worth more.

Embattled Clippers owner Donald Sterling has agreed to sell the NBA franchise to former Microsoft Corp. chief executive Steve Ballmer for that amount.

Bettman said sports franchises are becoming increasingly valuable because of their prominence as media content.

Speaking before Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final, the NHL commissioner said the Clippers sale may be a unique case due to the Los Angeles market, the number of people in the L.A. area who wanted to buy the team and Ballmer himself.

"It went for $2 billion; whether that means all franchises, either in the NBA or in any sport are proportionally impacted, I'm not so sure to the dollar," said Bettman. "But if the Clippers are worth $2 billion, we have plenty of franchises that are worth at least that, if not more."

On other matters, Bettman said he was not ready to make any announcement on a World Cup of Hockey.

"It's not something that's fully baked," said Bettman.

"Very substantive" discussions about the possibility of one or several World Cups were taking place with the Players' Association, he added, however.

When they get to it, a World Cup would be part of an expanded "international calendar," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stanley Cup final

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final between the New York Rangers and Los Angeles Kings at Staples Center.

Ferrer only a scare for Nadal

Rafael Nadal rallied to advance to the French Open semifinals for the ninth time, beating David Ferrer 4-6, 6-4, 6-0, 6-1 on Wednesday. The eight-time champion at Roland Garros dropped a set at this year's tournament for the first time, but then seemed to race through the next three to ensure he had the day off on Thursday. Nadal will next face Andy Murray in the semifinals on Friday. DAN ISTITENE/GETTY IMAGES

World Cup. Ronaldo hobbling ahead of Brazil

Portugal says forward Cristiano Ronaldo has tendinitis in his left leg to go with a left leg muscle injury as the team prepares for its World Cup opener on June 16 against Germany.

The Portuguese Football Federation also says in a medical report that Pepe, midfielder Raul Meireles and goalkeeper Beto all trained separately on Tuesday as they recover from injuries.

Ronaldo, the world player of the year, helped Real Madrid win the Champions League last month despite being hampered by leg injuries late in the season. Portugal is in the U.S., where it will play Mexico Friday and Ireland next week in friendlies before heading to Brazil. At the World Cup, Portugal also plays the United States and Ghana in Group G.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo is dealing with left leg injuries ahead of Portugal's World Cup opener against Germany on June 16. SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

Cristiano Ronaldo is unquestionably one of the top individual talents of 2014. Scan the image to see some of history's best World Cup performers.

England vs. Ecuador

Rooney gets back on England scoresheet

Wayne Rooney ended his four-game international goal drought as an experimental England side drew 2-2 with Ecuador in a feisty World Cup warm-up match on Wednesday.

Both teams ended with 10 men in Miami Gardens, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy vs. Luxembourg

Balotelli at his playmaking best before Brazil

Italy was held to a 1-1 draw by Luxembourg on Wednesday in its final World Cup warm-up match before leaving for Brazil, with forward Mario Balotelli looking in impressive form.

Claudio Marchisio headed Italy in front in the ninth minute after a splendid assist from Balotelli but Maxime Chanot levelled five minutes from time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Kaepernick signs extension with San Francisco

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick received a new six-year contract extension Wednesday that keeps him with the franchise through the 2020 season.

The sides had made it a top priority to get a deal done before the start of training camp next month for one of the NFL's best young quarterbacks. ESPN reported the deal is worth more than $110 million US.

Kaepernick, whose quick ascent to the ranks of the NFL's elite playcallers has earned him rock-star status, had been due to make less than $1 million this season.

Now, he instantly becomes one of the league's richest stars.

"I'm always striving to be in that elite group in the NFL, not in pay but as a player," Kaepernick said. "I'm very grateful for it.... I don't think my motivation is money-driven."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA Finals. Wishes still coming true for LeBron

LeBron James should be used to the NBA Finals by now. After five trips to the championship series in eight years, it would make sense if he had a been-there, done-that attitude when stepping onto the sport's biggest stage.

He doesn't.

On Wednesday James took a seat inside a makeshift interview area, sneaked a quick glance at the NBA Finals signage that was off to his left side, and beamed like a kid in a candy store. Just a couple years removed from being ripped for not delivering in the moments that decide championships, James seems more comfortable in these surroundings than ever.

"I'm blessed, man," James said. "That's all I can say."

And then, without stopping, the four-time MVP said much more.

"This is my fifth appearance in a finals," he continued. "I'm blessed. I was a kid who watched so many finals appearances and, you know, watched Michael Jordan and watched Shaq and Kobe.... We watched throwback finals games.... I just wished maybe I could see the finals verbiage behind me and be a part of this."

His wishes come true again Thursday night, when James and the Miami Heat open these finals against the San Antonio Spurs, the NBA's first championship-series rematch since 1998. The Heat are going for a third straight title; the Spurs are trying for their fifth crown since 1999.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James talks to members of the media on Wednesday in San Antonio. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
What happens today may convince you that you have allowed yourself to be lulled into a false sense of security but even if it's true it is no big deal. You're smart enough to handle whatever fate sends your way.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you trying to do everything the hard way? Not only is it unnecessary but it could also be self-defeating. Be who you are, not who you think others want you to be.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A challenge will confront you today but you will overcome it with ease. Take action quickly and don't doubt for a moment that you will succeed. Good things are coming your way.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It is important that you think things through carefully today. There is a danger that you will act hastily and regret it later, so slow down, think about what it is you want to do and work slowly towards that goal.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something will happen today to make you wonder if you've been too hasty in reaching certain conclusions. Just because some people have a way of life that is radically different to your own does not make them bad.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It may feel as if you're under the thumb at home and work, but there is no point getting stressed about it. Wait for the cosmic outlook to change, which it should do any day.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You're in an adventurous mood but this may not be the best time to venture into areas you don't know about. Wait until the full moon on the 13th has come and gone before moving out of your comfort zone.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Stay calm and keep telling yourself that everything will turn out right in the end. Above all don't allow yourself to get worked up about money matters. There is no reason at all to fear the worst.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Things may get bumpy over the next day or two but if you sit tight the turbulence will pass. If others want to throw tantrums that's up to them. You are under no obligation to follow their example.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Current influences highlight the need to be efficient, to get the most from yourself for the least input of time and energy. Pace yourself and look for ways to get from A to B simply.

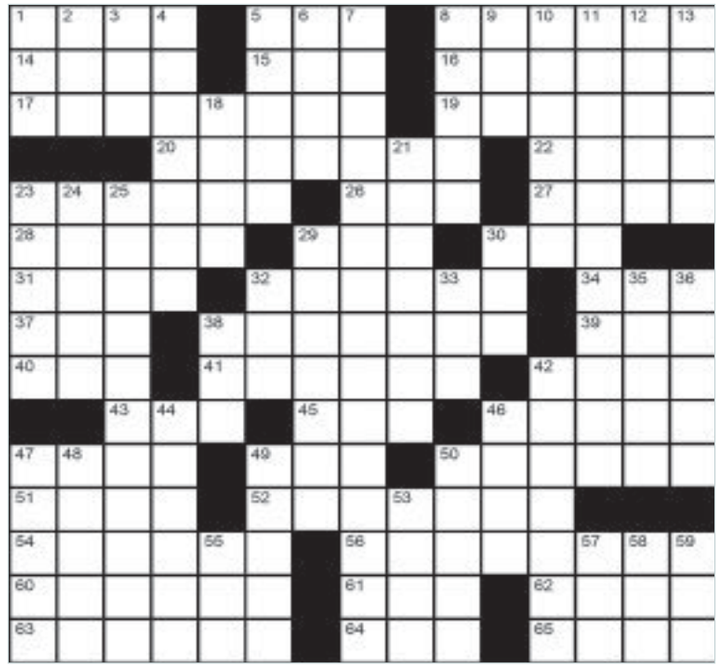
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A clash of egos could get rather heated over the next 24 hours, but the results should be positive. Hopefully it will get you thinking in new and more profitable directions.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your world will be rocked by what happens over the next few days but later you will look back and realize it was all for the best. Ultimately all change is good for you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



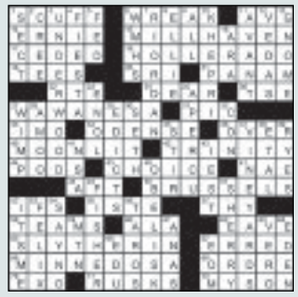
Across

1. Hamilton actor, Jonathan __ (b.1924 - d.2012 ...see #17-Across and #11-Down)
5. Pal
8. Book buyer
14. Jane __
15. Mined mineral
16. Refined
17. Vampire on #11-Down, __ Collins (Johnny Depp resurrected the role in the 2012 movie version)
19. Barber's shave-ees
20. Grand
22. Gull-like bird
23. David Bowie's "Space __"
26. Firearm
27. Glimpse
28. "Groovy!"
29. Advantages
30. Grey hue
31. Jealousy
32. Ed of "Modern Family"
34. Basic bug
37. "Take __, _ insist!"
38. "Do the __": Hit for #25-Down
39. Agnus __ (Lamb of God)
40. But, Latin-style
41. Keith Urban hit: 2 wds.
42. Peace bird
43. Roll
45. Feeling flu-ish
46. Strength
47. Mideast chieftain, variantly
49. Crossword band
50. Population count
51. NFL's Ravens city, for short
52. __-Windsor Tunnel
54. Sea __ (Aquatic creature)
56. Yukon's most northerly point, __ Island
60. Meathead's wife
61. "Yikes!"
62. Eddy __ (One of 'The Buyers' on CBC's "Four Rooms")
63. England's ancient invaders
64. Toronto's Yonge, et. al.
65. Safecracker

Down

1. Aquarian's mo.
2. Scandinavian rug
3. Flawed in a way [abbr.]
4. Concentration
5. British police officer
6. Russian river
7. Fare featured on based-in-Toronto channel Fashion Television: 2 wds.
8. Singer/actor Mr. Blades
9. Afore
10. Puts down
11. Gothic series of 1966 to 1971 on which #1-Across starred as the character at #17-Across: 2 wds.
12. Result in: 2 wds.
13. Pronounce once more
18. Manual's opposite
21. Evita or Hair
23. Three Dog Night: "__ __ the loneliest number..."
24. Al __ (Pasta preference)
25. Montreal-born singer/songwriter: 2 wds. (More at #38-Across)
29. How laundry might accumulate: 3 wds.
30. Supermodel Carol
32. War on Poverty agcy.
33. Roman Myth: Household deity
35. Nephew: French
36. Levels
38. Alphabet sequence
42. There, there ...your makeup will run.": 2 wds.
44. Joint: Prefix
46. Shar-__ (Some dogs)
47. "_ __ Life" (1998)
48. Actress Ms. Gibbs
49. Writer Ms. Ferber's
50. Wine stoppers
53. Jackie Wilson's "__ Petite"
55. "Am _ __ your way?"
57. Furrow maker
58. Baby bird's birthplace
59. Account

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		5		7		9	
		5				3		
	2		4		9		6	
	9	3				5	8	
8								9
	4	7				6	3	
	7		3		8		4	
		1				7		
	6		2		1		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	3	5	7	4	8	6	2
2	7	8	1	6	3	5	9	4
5	4	6	9	2	8	7	1	3
3	2	1	8	4	9	6	5	7
6	9	5	2	1	7	3	4	8
7	8	4	3	5	6	1	2	9
1	3	2	4	8	5	9	7	6
8	5	7	6	9	2	4	3	1
4	6	9	7	3	1	2	8	5

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